

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 181715Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2465

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 KINGSTON 4014

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF AGEE

OPENING GUN:

1. MEDIA BLITZ IN SUPPORT OF PHILIP AGEE'S VISIT BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, WITH A QUARTER-PAGE, BOLD-FACED AD ON PAGE 13 OF THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS ANNOUNCING: "THE JAMAICA COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SPONSORS A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ON "THE CIA AND DESTABILIZATION", GUEST SPEAKER PHILIP AGEE -- AUTHOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER "INSIDE THE COMPANY - CIA DIARY" FOLLOWED BY A THREE LINE BIO OF AGEE LISTING HIS POSTS OF ASSIGNMENT, WITH DATES, DURING HIS 12 YEARS WITH CIA, AND THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND THEIR VENUES. WITH A FAITH WHICH CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS THOROUGHLY JUSTIFIED, THE LAST LINE OF THE AD SAID: "CHECK PRESS AND RADIO FOR FURTHER DETAILS." NO FURTHER PAID PUBLICITY WAS NEEDED UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, WHEN A SUDDEN

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CHANGE OF VENUE OF THE FINAL PUBLIC MEETING, SPON-

SORED BY THE JAMAICA PRESS ASSOCIATION, MADE IT NECESSARY. THAT AD NOTED THAT THE MEETING WAS THE "LAST CHANCE TO SEE AND HEAR PHILIP AGEE"... WHICH WAS NOT QUITE ACCURATE.

2. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: THE DAILY GLEANER CARRIED TWO SHORT NOTES, ANNOUNCING ON PAGE 5 AGEE'S IMPENDING APPEARANCE IN AN "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW AT 12:40 PM ON THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED JBC RADIO 1 IN WHICH "HE WILL TALK TO THE HOST OF THE PROGRAM ABOUT DESTABILIZATION AND THE ROLE OF THE CIA IN SUCH ACTIVITIES;" AND ON PAGE 17 A NOTE CALLING ATTENTION TO THE FIRST OF THE AGEE PUBLIC RALLIES THAT EVENING AT THE YWCA; ON SUNDAY AT A MEETING OF THE SUGAR WORKERS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL; AND ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY AT A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE PRESS ASSOCIATION. THE (JAMAICA) DAILY NEWS ON FRIDAY CARRIED NO REPORTS ON AGEE'S IMPENDING APPEARANCES, BUT SET THE STAGE FOR THE COMING WEEK WITH A LENGTHY ARTICLE ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE, MOSTLY CULLED FROM THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORTS, UNDER THE HEADLINE: "HOW THE CIA CRACKED ALLENDE", BY STAFF WRITER WENTY BOWEN. THE ARTICLE SET OUT THE THEMES UPON WHICH AGEE LATER PLAYED EXTENSIVELY DURING HIS VISIT AND AFTER NOTING THAT IN 1970 NIXON HAD ORDERED CIA DIRECTOR HELMS TO CONDUCT AN EFFORT TO PREVENT ALLENDE'S ACCESSION TO POWER WHICH "WAS TO BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE OR DEFENSE, OR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE US AMBASSADOR IN CHILE", CONCLUDED: "... THE UNITED STATES HAD SET IN MOTION TWO PARALLEL BUT SEPARATE ACTIVITIES, ONE OF THEM KNOWN TO THE AMBASSADOR IN CHILE, AND TO THE 40 COMMITTEE WHICH SUPPOSEDLY DIRECTED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA THERE; AND ONE OF THEM KEPT HIDDEN FROM THE AMBASSADOR AND THE 40 COMMITTEE. ONE WAS INTENDED TO CREATE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNREST AND PANIC WHICH IT WAS HOPED WOULD TRIGGER OFF A COUP; THE OTHER WAS INTENDED TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE A COUP. THE DESTABILIZATION OF

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CHILE HAD BEGUN."

3. ALSO ON FRIDAY, THE STAR (THE AFTERNOON BOULEVARD EDITION OF THE GLEANER) CARRIED A SHORT ITEM ON PAGE TEN -- CREDITED TO THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (API) -- ANNOUNCING A RALLY FOR SATURDAY NIGHT FOR THE "INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE" -- AGAIN AT THE YWCA WITH A

PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED THE SHOWING OF TWO FILMS
"CHILE" AND "THE CIA" (PRESUMABLY THE GRENADA PRODUCTION).
SPONSORSHIP OF THE MEETING WAS BY THE
JAMAICA NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF YOUTH
AND STUDENTS. THERE WERE NO REPORTS ON AGEE
ACTIVITIES.

4. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: NEITHER THE DAILY
GLEANER NOR THE DAILY NEWS CARRIED REPORTS ON THE AGEE
FRIDAY NIGHT MEETING (TOO LATE FOR THEIR DEADLINE),
BUT THE SATURDAY STAR (STREET SALES ONLY, SMALL CIRCULATION) FRONT PAGED A REPORT WITH THE HEADLINE:
"FORMER AGENT CLAIMS EVIDENCE OF CIA AT WORK".
AGEE CITED AS "EVIDENCE" THESE DEVELOPMENTS: (A)
KINGSTON HAD BEEN DECLARED A "HARDSHIP" POST BY THE
DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO KEEP AWAY PROSPVITIVE VISITORS
AND INVESTORS; (B) A MASSIVE AND COORDINATED BAD
PRESS FOR JAMAICA IN NORTH AMERICA; AND (C) THE
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK" DECISION "TO REDUCE JAMAICA'S
CREDIT RATING FROM "A TO C, THUS MAKING IT MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT FOR COMMODITIES TO BE IMPORTED ON CREDIT."
"AFTER GIVING "EXAMPLES", THE REPORT CONTINUED, "FROM
HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF METHODS USED BY THE CIA
TO DESTABLIZE THE COUNTRY, AGEE CONCLUDED THAT 'WHAT
SEEMS TO BE OCCURRING IN JAMAICA IS THE BEGINNINGS
(SIC) OF THE UNDERMINING OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM'
THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE AGENCY."

5. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: THE DAILY GLEANER CARRIED
A REPORT IN A MINOR POSITION ON THE FRONT PAGE WHICH
WAS NEARLY IDENTICAL WITH THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S REPORT
IN THE STAR AND A PICTURE OF AGEE AT THE RALLY ON
PAGE 22, WHICH CONTAINS A FULL PAGE OF THE WEEK'S
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NEWS IN PICTURES. THE DAILY NEWS CARRIED NOTHING.
THE STAR DOES NOT PUBLISH.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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6. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: NOTHING BY ANYONE.

7. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: BOTH THE GLEANER AND THE DAILY NEWS CARRIED BRIEF NOTES INDICATING THE CHANGE IN VENUE OF THE TUESDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE AND THE GLEANER CARRIED THE SMALL AD REFERRED TO IN PARA 1. NOTHING IN THE STAR.

8. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: THE MORNING DAILY NEWS AND THE EVENING STAR BOTH REPORTED BRIEFLY THE BOMB SCARE HOAX WHICH BROKE UP THE TUESDAY NIGHT AGEE APPEARANCE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, AND THE STAR FRONG-PAGED A REPORT MISQUOTING THE PAO AND THE AMBASSADOR ON THE MEANING OF "POST DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCES", IN A HEADLINE ARTICLE ENTITLED: "WHAT'S A 'HARDSHIP' POST"?

9. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: BOTH THE GLEANER AND THE DAILY NEWS FRONT-PAGED A REPORT OF CRITICISM OF AGEE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE JAMAICA MANUFACTURERS ASSOC.,
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WINSTON MAHFOOD, WHO SAID AGEE "HAD BEEN SPOUTING HATRED AND ANTAGANISM SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE". THE PAPERS REPORTED MAHFOOD AS SAYING "THAT IT WAS A DISGRACE THAT THE JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION WAS BEING USED AS A VEHICLE TO PERPETRATE THIS 'SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CIA AND THE UNITED STATES IN GENERAL'." MR. MAHFOOD STATED THAT THE

COUNTRY SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF MR. AGEE'S PLANNED SMEAR CAMPAIGN WHICH COULD NOT BE IN THE PEOPLE'S BEST INTEREST. HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WAS IN A CHAOTIC STATE AND THAT THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WAS COLLAPSING, WITH JAMAICA DEPENDING ON THE UNITED STATES FOR A VIABLE INDUSTRY". (NOTE: THIS WAS THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY OF THE MANY AGEE TV INTERVIEWS IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND WAS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE.) ALSO ON THURSDAY THE DAILY NEWS RAN A LENGTHY EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AGEE AND THE CIA" WHICH, IN THE FIRST THREE PARAGRAPHS SEEMED IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING HIM TO TASK, BUT THEN CRITICISED HIM FOR CONCENTRATING ON THE COUNTRIES WHERE HE HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING "ON THE DETAILS OF THE CIA OPERATION IN GUYANA AND CHILE... WHICH BEAR A CLOSER PARALLEL TO JAMAICA". THE EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH THE COMMENT: "PERHAPS HIS MOST HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION IN THE LECTURE WAS THE ANSWER HE GAVE TO A QUESTIONER THAT THE CIA CAN DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN JAMAICA WITHOUT THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF JAMAICANS."

10. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: THE DAILY GLEANER PUBLISHED A BRIEF REPORT ON THE FRONT PAGE UNDER THE HEADLINE: "CLAIMS AGEE: 5 MEMBERS OF U.S. EMBASSY CIA AGENTS". THE REPORT CONTAINED ALLEGATIONS BY AGEE "THAT THE CIA OFFICE IN KINGSTON HAS INCREASED ITS COMPLEMENT OF OPERATIONS OFFICERS FROM 3 IN 1971 TO 5 AT THIS TIME - 'A VERY SIGNIFICANT BUILD-UP FOR THE CIA IN ANY COUNTRY'." THE GLEANER REPORT IGNORED THOSE PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED AS "SUPPORT" PERSONNEL IN THE AGEE RELEASE. (TEXT REPORTED SEPTEL.) THE DAILY NEWS, ON THE OTHER HAND, UNDER A BANNER HEADLINE WHICH READ: "9 HERE NAMED CONFIDENTIAL

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AS CIA AGENTS" WITH A SUB-HEAD. "AGEE PULLS COVER OFF EMBASSY STAFF" RAN AN EXTENSIVE STORY OF THE AGEE THURSDAY PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2. (FULL TEXT OF THAT REPORT, BY STAFF WRITER CANUTE JAMES, SEPT BY SEPTTEL.) NEITHER PAPER PRINTED ANY OF THE NAMES IN THE AGEE HAND-OUT. THE DAILY NEWS ALSO CARRIED ON ITS ED PAGE THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE WENTY BOWEN EXPOSE OF THE CIA IN CHILE.

11. COMMENT: PARADOXICALLY, THE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE MUST BE DESCRIBED AS RELATIVELY RESTRAINED -- ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT. WITH THE EXCEPTION NOTED ABOVE, NONE OF THE PAPERS GAVE ANY CROSS-PLAY TO

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MANY RADIO AND TV INTERVIEWS. REPORTING WAS GENERALLY RELATIVELY BRIEF, FACTUAL STORIES ON AGEE'S TWO PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN KINGSTON AND THE SEPTEMBER 16TH PRESS CONFERENCE -- IGNORING THE MEETING WITH THE SUGAR WORKERS COOPERATIVE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ODD EDITORIAL IN THE THURSDAY DAILY NEWS, THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE. IT WAS ABOUT THE LEAST THEY COULD DO.

12. RADIO AND TELEVISION: THESE WERE ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY -- PARTICULARLY ON THE JBC RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A PLAY BY PLAY REPORT AS WITH THE NEWSPAPERS, BUT A STATISTICAL AND IMPRESSIONISTIC SUMMARY WILL SUFFICE. NOT COUNTING THE FREQUENT NARRATIVE REPORTS ON THE REGULAR NEWS PROGRAMS OF HIS ACTIVITIES, NOR THE AUDIO TAPES AND FILM COVERAGE OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES -- WHICH WERE EXTENSIVE AND FREQUENTLY REPEATED -- AGEE APPEARED IN VARIOUS INTERVIEW AND PANEL PROGRAMS ON JBC FOR A TOTAL OF THREE HOURS AND ON RJR RADIO (THE INDEPENDENT, COMMERCIAL NETWORK) FOR 45 MINUTES. ESTIMATING THE TOTAL RADIO-TV EXPOSURE, IT COULD HAVE BEEN NEARLY DOUBLE -- OR CLOSE TO 7 HOURS. THE STAGED INTERVIEW/PANEL SHOWS WERE AS FOLLOWS: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: INTERVIEWED ON JBC RADIO PROGRAM "TAKE A SEAT" CONFIDENTIAL

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(60 MINUTES); ON JBC-TV PROGRAM "FRIDAY NIGHT" (30 MINUTES). SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: INTERVIEWED ON RJR RADIO PROGRAM "EXPOSURE" (45 MINUTES) AND JBC-TV PROGRAM "VERSION" BY TWO "REVERENDS " (30 MINUTES); AND ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 FOR 60 MINUTES ON THE JBC-TV PROGRAM "FIRING LINE". IN ALL OF THE PROGRAMS THE INTERVIEWERS/PANELISTS WERE LEFT-WING, REHEARSED, INEPT AND KOWTOWED TO THE INTERVIEWEE. IF THE RESULTS WERE NOT SO DAMAGING IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LUDICROUS. THE OCCASIONAL INTERVIEWER POINTED OUT

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THAT AGEE WAS MAKING A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY OUT OF HIS NEW CRUSADE, WITHOUT HOWEVER, ASKING HOW MUCH HE WAS MAKING IN JAMAICA -- AND FROM WHOM. THE AGEE APPEARANCES WERE SET PIECES -- BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE, GROWING DISILLUSION, DEPARTURE, WORK ON HIS BOOK, AND A NEW CAREER EXPOSING CIA OPERATIVES AROUND THE WORLD "SO THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU" CAN DRIVE THEM OUT, A COY REFUSAL TO NAME NAMES "WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES" NOT GIVEN, THAT IS, (UNTIL HIS FINAL, PRE-DEPARTURE NEWS CONFERENCE) AND, FINALLY, THE DRAWING OF PARALLELS TO THE CURRENT JAMAICAN SITUATION. (THE EMBASSY HAS TAPES OF ALL OF THE INTERVIEWS, THE THEMES BEING ESSENTIALLY THOSE REPORTED IN THE NEWS REPORTS CITED IN PARA. 2 ABOVE.) AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, NEWS BROADCASTS ON JBC RADIO AND TV CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THE PANEL/INTERVIEW SHOWS -- EITHER REPEATING THOSE JUST PAST, OR PROMOTING THOSE UPCOMING.

13. THE EXCEPTION TO THIS CAMPAIGN WAS THE INDE-
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PENDENT-COMMERCIAL RADIO RJR -- WHICH, FOLLOWING ITS AIRING OF THE INTERVIEW WITH AGEE ON SUNDAY CITED ABOVE, CANCELLED ANOTHER INTERVIEW WHICH HAD BEEN PRE-RECORDED STATING, THROUGH A SPOKESMEN, THAT AGEE "HAD RECEIVED ENOUGH OPPORTUNITY ON THE "EX-

POSURE" PROGRAM TO AIR HIS VIEWS". COVERAGE OF THE AGEE VISIT ON NEWS PROGRAMS WAS CONTINUED UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE. THE STATION HAS ALREADY DRAWN THE FIRE OF MINISTER OF HOUSING MR. ANTHONY SPAULDING -- ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL API NEWS RELEASE -- WHO "PROTESTED THE RJR 'KILLING' OF THE (CANCELLED) PROGRAM".

14. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DIRECT PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF A GOVERNMENT HAND IN THE ORCHESTRATION OF THIS MEDIA BLITZ -- WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SPAULDING'S COMMENT -- BUT ATTRIBUTION OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PUBLIC INTEREST STRAINS CREDULITY. THE JBC -- WHICH HAD SCRUBBED THE V PROGRAM "FIRING LINE" WITH THE INSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE IT FEATURED TELEPHONE CALL-INS WHICH COULD INCITE TO "BREACHES OF THE PEACE" -- INTERDICTED BY EMERGENCY REG. 15 -- REINSTATED THE PROGRAM, MINUS THE PHONE CALL-IN FEATURE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE AGEE APPEARANCE. THE PANEL OF QUESTIONERS FOR THE PROGRAM WAS, TO SAY THE LEAST, "HAND-PICKED".

15. NONE OF THE MEDIA HAS RELEASED THE NAMES IN THE LIST AGEE HANDED OUT AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE -- BUT MORE THAN FIFTY PEOPLE RECEIVED COPIES, INCLUDING A PRENSA LATINA CORRESPONDENT WHO COULD BE SEEN (ON TV) SEATED AT THE TABLE WITH AGEE. XEROX MACHINES ARE PRESUMED HUMMING AL OVER THE ISLAND. PUBLICATION BY HAND-OUT, FLYER, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, A FOREIGN-NEWS SERVICE OR WHATEVER SEEMS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

16. LATE NEWS: THE FIRST FLYER HIT THE STREETS AS OF MID-DAY SEPTEMBER 18. IT CONTAINED THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN AGEE'S PRESS RELEASE.

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